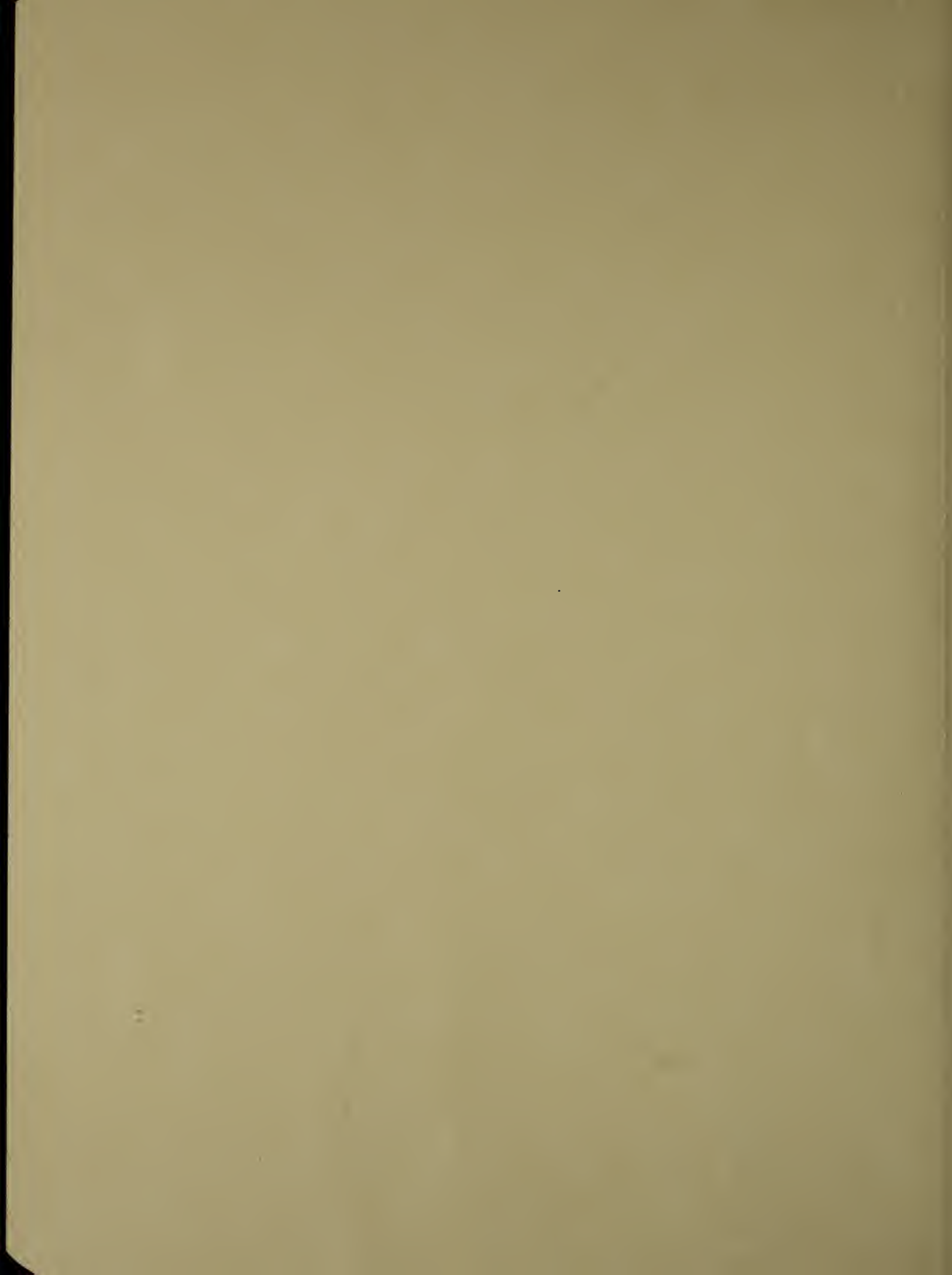


JOHNSON, J. SEWARD, JR.

DRAWER 21a

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Statues of Abraham Lincoln

J. Seward Johnson, Jr.

Excerpts from newspapers and other
sources

From the files of the
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection









Sculptor J. Seward Johnson, Jr. shown completing detail work on the sculpture of Abraham Lincoln at his studio. A lifesized sculpture of a 20th Century man will stand next to Lincoln's 6' 4" bronze image, who is portrayed explaining why he wrote the Gettysburg Address.

SCULPTURE UNVEILING

J. Seward Johnson, Jr.

Center Square
Gettysburg, Pennsylvania
November 19, 1991
9:30 am

A lifesized bronze sculpture brings Abraham Lincoln's words and ideas to life. Please join the Lincoln Fellowship of Pennsylvania in honoring artist Seward Johnson as his sculpture "Return Visit" is formally unveiled on Gettysburg Plaza. The artist will present an address at the ceremony.

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A statuesque memorial

GETTYSBURG, Pa. (AP) — J. Seward Johnson, whose statues are so lifelike a security guard once shot one, envisions a down-to-earth rendering of Abraham Lincoln for the town where the 16th president delivered his most famous speech.

Johnson's Lincoln will be near the town square, but on the sidewalk instead of a pedestal — and aside a likeness of a 20th century tourist. The tourist, dressed in slacks and a cable-knit sweater, holds a copy of the Gettysburg Address as he listens to the president.

The artist, who lives near Princeton, N.J., has been commissioned to create the statue for this rural Pennsylvania town where Lincoln delivered the famed Civil War speech 127 years ago.

Johnson, perched on an antique chair in the office of Civil War scholar Gabor Boritt, said the statue is designed "to celebrate Lincoln's humanity, bring him off a pedestal, celebrate the greatness of him as a human being."

Another purpose is "to show that the Gettysburg Address was still a meaningful document today."

In Johnson's artwork, Lincoln is saying something to the tourist as he points to the nearby Wills House, where he stayed the night before the speech.

"He might have been saying how uncomfortable the bed was," Johnson said with a laugh as he flexed

his long, thick fingers. "Whatever it is, the fellow is a little bit in awe of him."

Johnson hopes to have the artwork completed in time for next November's annual Gettysburg celebration.

A model has been on display around town for several weeks, and the reception has been positive, Johnson said. He resisted suggestions that he replace the tourist's sweater with a jacket, but agreed to some minor changes.

"On something like this, I feel an artist has to be very sensitive to the people who have to live with it," he said.

He was commissioned for the work by the Lincoln Fellowship of Pennsylvania, which sponsors the annual ceremony marking the speech. The group has sought a statue honoring Lincoln for nearly 50 years.

"The hope has been here for a long, long time and finally we are doing it," said Boritt, a professor of history at Gettysburg College. He said the Lincoln Fellowship is trying to raise \$100,000 to pay for the statue and provide a maintenance fund.

The figures will be cast in bronze, but they will wear real clothes coated with a plastic-like resin.

Johnson's lifelike sculptures are displayed in 26 states, the District of Columbia and several foreign countries.

He tells countless tales of drivers

who try to pick up an untorella-toting statue in the classic cab-hailing pose or of people who try to strike up conversations with figures on a park bench.

But one of his favorite stories involves the statue that was shot by a security guard answering a silent alarm at a house in Los Angeles. No intruder was found.



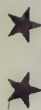
J. Seward Johnson Jr. shows off a clay model of the Lincoln statue he was commissioned to do for Gettysburg, Pa.

AP



TUESDAY

MAY 28, 1991
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Staff photo by Patil Miller

J. Seward Johnson Jr. displays a model of an Abraham Lincoln statue that he is producing for the Lincoln Fellowship of Pennsylvania. It will stand in Gettysburg, Pa.

Sculptor's Lincoln statue seeks 'Abe's' humanity

BY CHARLES STYLE

Staff Writer

HAMILTON — Honest Abe Lincoln will hit the streets of Gettysburg, Pa., for a return engagement this fall. But first he must be fitted with bronze walking shoes in a shop on the Ward Avenue Extension.

It is in J. Seward Johnson Jr.'s busy sculpture studio that Lincoln will have his shoes, black frock coat, bow tie and signature stovepipe hat cast and recast in a succession of molds and special clays in preparation for the 128th anniversary of the Gettysburg Address on Nov. 19.

Johnson, a sculptor known for his bronze statues and sculptures that have momentarily puzzled thousands of observers with their life-like quality, was commissioned last year by a Gettysburg-based organization to build a statue commemorating the event.

Johnson, an heir to the Johnson & Johnson Co. family fortune, was initially asked by the Lincoln Fellowship of Pennsylvania to build a

statue of Lincoln holding a copy of the Gettysburg Address.

Johnson agreed — well, not entirely.

His 6-foot-4-inch Lincoln will be holding his hat in his left hand above his head as he throws a side glance at a companion statue who is carrying a copy of the speech.

But to whom is Lincoln speaking? A Civil War veteran? One of his political cronies? The ex-mayor of Gettysburg?

No, says Johnson. He is talking to a "20th-century man." Lincoln's trip through the sculptor's time tunnel has the president towering over a 5-foot-10-inch modern man, who is casually clad in a cable-knit sweater, corduroy pants and sneakers.

And to make matters more unorthodox, Johnson has the two statues standing on a street corner facing the home of David Wills, the place where Lincoln wrote the speech the night before he delivered it. The famous speech, which begins "Four score and seven

• see LINCOLN, A6



Sculptor J. Seward Johnson Jr. does detail work recently at his Hamilton studio on the beard of his Abraham Lincoln statue. A statue of a "20th-century man" stands next to Lincoln, who is portrayed "explaining" how and why he wrote the Gettysburg Address.

Lincoln

• continued from A1

years ago . . .," was written to dedicate a Civil War cemetery on the outskirts of Gettysburg.

The house now has a drug store on its first floor and a Lincoln museum on the second.

"He's a human being," Johnson said in an interview inside the Johnson Atelier Technical Institute of Sculpture. "As a figure recedes in history, they lose their humanity. This will bring it back."

INJECTING A touch of artistic appreciation in public places, such as parks or entrances to corporate buildings, is a major theme to Johnson's "social art." His sculptures portray common, everyday activities — reading newspapers or stretching out on park benches for a quick snooze. They are deliberately designed to confuse passers-by into thinking the statues are human beings.

But when people get over their initial fluster of realization that they are staring at a mute bronze likeness, they often stop and try to understand what the statue is about.

"At first, people think it is a per-

'He's a human being. As a figure recedes in history, they lose their humanity. This will bring it back.'

— J. Seward Johnson Jr., sculptor

son. They are shocked by a delightful realization," he said. Eventually, the viewer grows to "endow the piece of bronze with life."

But the members of the Lincoln Fellowship and members of the local community were endowed with a sense of tradition. They simply wanted a Lincoln statue holding onto a copy of the address. The idea of Lincoln chatting with a 20th-century man did not sit well at first with some back in Gettysburg.

Gabor Boritt, a Gettysburg College professor of Civil War studies and the chairman of the local statue committee, said there was hesitation within the community at first.

"It was an original idea," said Boritt, who initially thought the companion was going to be a Civil War veteran. "I'm sure that when they invented the light bulb there were some reservations."

But eventually, people grew to accept the symbolic intent of Johnson's plan: Lincoln passing down the spirit and letter of his words to future generations. "I'm interested in seeing Lincoln staying alive in this culture," Boritt said.

For now, the statue is being developed in stages. In one of the institute's workrooms, Lincoln's head sits temporarily on a table next to the 20th-century man's head.

"This is not an immense structure looking down on little us," said Johnson, referring to the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. "Sometimes an artist is needed to shake things up and discover new truths."

STATE/LOCAL

Lincoln's lifelike statue to stand in Gettysburg

By Jerry L. Gleason
York Bureau

Abraham Lincoln will return to Gettysburg on Tuesday in the form of a life-size, life-like statue that will stand on the sidewalk in the southeast corner of Lincoln Square.

Titled "Return Visit," the J. Seward Johnson Jr. sculpture depicts Lincoln standing in front of the Wills House, pointing to the window of the room where he stayed the night before he delivered the Gettysburg Address. Beside him is the statue of a modern-day tourist, holding a copy of the famous Lincoln speech.

The statue will be unveiled and dedi-

cated at 9:30 a.m. Tuesday, the 128th anniversary of the Gettysburg Address. It will be the first statue of Lincoln in Gettysburg. It was commissioned by the Lincoln Fellowship of Pennsylvania.

Gabor Boritt, a Gettysburg College professor of Civil War studies and chairman of the statue committee, said there was some hesitation at first when he suggested that Johnson receive the commission.

Johnson's bronze figures, which are draped in actual clothing, are so realistic that they often are mistaken for real people.

Lincoln Fellowship members aren't opposed to a lifelike statue, but what they had in mind was a simple statue of

Lincoln holding the Gettysburg Address. At first, they weren't too receptive to the inclusion of a modern-day tourist.

"It was either appoint Seward Johnson to do the work or hold a national competition, and I was able to convince people that Mr. Johnson's work was just what we wanted," Boritt said.

"This statue will be as close to a living Lincoln as a statue can be, and that is what we wanted. We also wanted a statue you can walk up to. Mr. Lincoln was a man of the people, and we didn't want him up on a pedestal, looking down at the people.

"Lincoln's feet will be right on the sidewalk and you can literally walk

right up to him," Boritt said.

The statue's black frock coat, bow tie, stovepipe hat and shoes will be based on items actually owned and worn by the 16th president.

"We got a copy of the actual pattern of Lincoln's clothing, which were made by a tailor who saved the pattern, and the shoes are based on an order that Lincoln mailed to a boot maker. The order included a tracing of his foot that Lincoln made himself," Boritt said.

Johnson, a grandson of a founder of medical supply firm Johnson & Johnson Co., turned to sculpture in 1968 after a career in painting. He has turned out more than 70 life-size works that can be

found in major cities around the world. Hand-sewn clothing is applied to the finished bronze figures, then is sprayed with a stiffening resin to hold its shape.

Johnson's works are often taken for real people. Cab drivers in Manhattan and Washington were pulling up in front of "Taxi?" a figure of a man hailing a cab, until they got used to it being there.

His work, Johnson says, "celebrates mini-heros, normal-size people reclaiming their humanness."

Lincoln's human qualities are often lost in the reverence that surrounds him. "As a figure recedes in history, they lose their humanity. This will help bring Lincoln's back," Johnson said.

STATE/LOCAL

The Evening News

SECTION

B

NOVEMBER 13, 1991

A

Harrisburg, Pa.

Inside...

Freind to announce Senate p
Page

Return visit



Sculptor J. Seward Johnson Jr. works on a clay model of his statue of Abraham Lincoln. A life-size, lifelike statue of Lincoln,

titled "Return Visit," will be erected Tuesday in Lincoln Square in Gettysburg. See story on Page B3.

Photo supplied by J. Seward Johnson Jr.



Times photo by Bill Schwartz

LINCOLN RETURNS — Abraham Lincoln's return to Gettysburg Thursday was a little less than ceremonial. Under the quilt and strapping on the back of a flatbed truck, are the two works by sculptor J. Beward Johnson called "Return Visit," featuring the 16th President and a modern man. The lifelike

masterpiece was assembled Thursday and will be dedicated at its site in front of the Wills House on Tuesday when it is presented to the Lincoln Fellowship. For more photos of Lincoln's "Return Visit," turn to page 5A.

Lincoln statue arrives in Gettysburg

by TRACI A. LOWER
Times News Coordinator

"A dream come true," is how Lincoln Fellowship President Paul Ketterman described the arrival of the statue of Abraham Lincoln. The statue will take place on the 126th Anniversary of the Gettysburg Address next week.

"I'm excited," Mr. Ketterman said as the statue of Lincoln was gently lifted from a flatbed truck. "I'm excited for myself and the town, but also for what this will mean to everybody who visits Gettysburg."

Those who missed the statue being erected on Thursday will have to wait until the unveiling next Tuesday to see how true to life the statue is — a trademark of the sculptor, J. Beward Johnson.

Created by the Lincoln Fellowship, the statue is being erected on the lawn of the Wills House where he stayed when he came to deliver the Gettysburg Address. Beside him is a 20th century man dressed in the casual attire of a tourist.

The combination of the two figures is Johnson's attempt to form a bridge between the 19th century of Lincoln's life and the Civil War on the one hand, and the 20th century and beyond on the other hand.

Gettysburg College professor Dr. Oskar Boritt, who coordinated the research efforts on the statue, said that many of the details concerning Lincoln's height and weight were taken from the original clothes worn when he was shot in Ford's Theatre in 1865.

To capture Lincoln's facial details, the artist studied one of five profile copies of his face, originally made from plaster in February of 1865, as well as numerous photographs from that time period.

"I don't believe there is another sculpture like this one," Boritt remarked, with the figures representing a difference of more than 100 years.

He added, "I do think it is good to this day to put up a statue to an individual. It is important for us to remember that individuals have mattered in history and still do matter."

Boritt remembered that during an earlier trip to New Jersey to see the sculpture, his wife noted that the figure brought to mind the "Second Coming."

Pulitzer prize winner James McPherson, who was also on the trip quickly responded, "No, it's the Return Visit," and that name has stuck with the statue.

With Lincoln weighing in at 700 pounds and the 20th century man at about 400 pounds Boritt noted that it may take awhile for residents to get accustomed to the new figures on the square.

"But all of us in the Fellowship are confident that the sculpture will soon become an inseparable part of the community," he said. "The world will be looking upon Gettysburg, and this will be a symbol of it."

The program on Tuesday will begin at 9:30 a.m. with Songs of the Common Man by the Orrtanna Mountain Steamers. At 10 a.m., the 11th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry will present the colors and the Gettysburg High School Ceremonial Brass Band will play the National Anthem.

James Roach, vice president of the Lincoln Fellowship, will give the welcome and introduction, followed by the winner of an essay contest sponsored by the Gettysburg Travel Council, reciting "What the Gettysburg Address Means To Me."

This will lead up to the main speaker of the day, the sculptor, J. Beward Johnson.

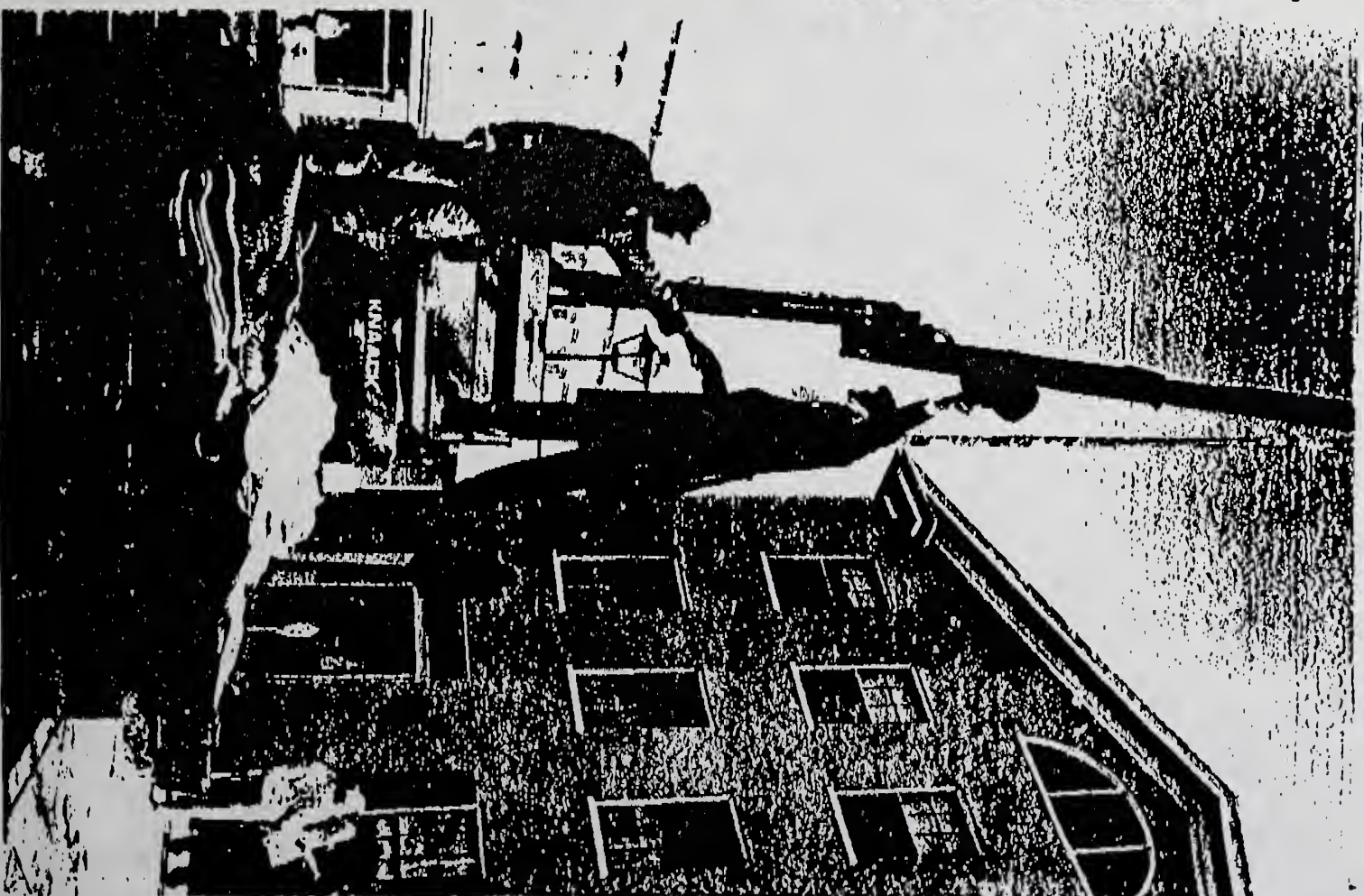
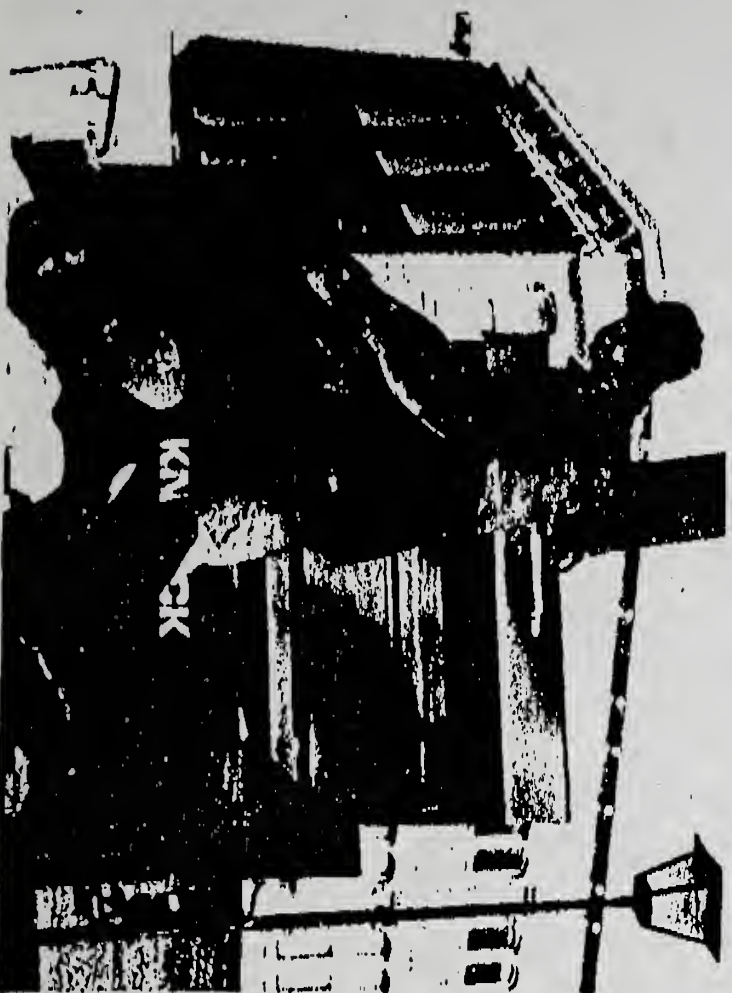
Abraham Lincoln, portrayed by James Getty, will also speak from the Wills House as he did in 1863, and will later recite the Gettysburg Address.

The official dedication of the statue will take place with a presentation by Johnson and the acceptance by Ketterman.

Mr. Lincoln's 'Return Visit'



TRACING HIS STEPS — Harry Gordon of Johnson Atelier traces the feet of one of the sculptures so holes can be drilled in the proper places in the sidewalk, so support rods could be inserted



ON HE GOES — Doug Robert of John-

son, the flanked by crane after the piece, as

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LINCOLN TO MAKE "RETURN VISIT" TO GETTYSBURG

THE UNVEILING AND DEDICATION OF J. SEWARD JOHNSON, JR.'S SCULPTURE "RETURN VISIT" WILL TAKE PLACE ON NOVEMBER 19, 1991 AT 9:30 A.M. IN THE CENTER SQUARE OF GETTYSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA AS PART OF THE 128TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF THE GETTYSBURG ADDRESS. THE RENOWNED ARTIST WAS COMMISSIONED BY THE LINCOLN FELLOWSHIP OF PENNSYLVANIA TO CREATE THIS LIFESIZE BRONZE SCULPTURE OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN, WHICH IS THE FIRST FULL SIZE SCULPTURE OF THE PRESIDENT TO BE PLACED IN GETTYSBURG. THE SCULPTURE IS NOT A STANDARD HEROIC STATUE. THIS VERSION OF LINCOLN IS LIFELIKE IN GESTURE AND POSE, AS HE STANDS POINTING TOWARD THE WINDOW OF THE ROOM WHERE HE WROTE THE GETTYSBURG ADDRESS, WITH A SECOND BRONZE FIGURE OF A CONTEMPORARY 20TH CENTURY MAN STANDING NEXT TO HIM.

"RETURN VISIT" MESHERS THE HISTORICAL EVENTS OF 1863 WITH THE PRESENT DAY. THE SCULPTURE WILL INCLUDE A HISTORICALLY PRECISE LIFESIZE FIGURE OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN (SIX FEET, FOUR INCHES IN BRONZE) WHO, WITH HAT IN HAND, IS POINTING TO THE SECOND STORY WINDOW OF THE DAVID WILLS HOME WHERE IT IS BELIEVED HE WROTE THE FAMOUS SPEECH. WITH HIS OTHER HAND, MR. LINCOLN TOUCHES THE SHOULDER OF A 20TH CENTURY MAN WHO IS READING A COPY OF THE GETTYSBURG ADDRESS. THE 20TH CENTURY MAN IS CASUALLY DRESSED IN SLACKS AND A CABLE KNIT SWEATER, LINCOLN IS DRESSED IN HIS TRADEMARK BLACK PANTS AND FROCK COAT, WHITE SHIRT, BOW TIE AND STOVEPIPE HAT. THE ARTIST DID PAINSTAKING RESEARCH TO MAKE CERTAIN THAT EVERY DETAIL OF THE LINCOLN FIGURE IS HISTORICALLY ACCURATE, FROM THE LABEL ON THE INSIDE OF HIS HAT TO THE THICKNESS OF THE SOLES ON THE SHOES HE IS WEARING. ONE OF THE GREAT CHALLENGES TO THE ARTIST WAS THE BLENDING OF HISTORIC FACT WITH CONTEMPORARY TECHNOLOGY.

-more-

J. SEWARD JOHNSON, JR. IS WELL KNOWN FOR HIS UNCANNILY REALISTIC LIFESIZE BRONZE SCULPTURES, WHICH ARE FOUND IN PRIVATE AND CORPORATE COLLECTIONS ACROSS THE NATION. MOST OF US HAVE SEEN JOHNSON'S WORKS IN OUR EVERYDAY LIFE. PERHAPS WE HAVE SEEN A BRONZE MAN HAILING A TAXI IN NEW YORK, OR TWO BRONZE BOYS PLAYING FRISBEE IN CHICAGO, OR A GENTLEMAN WHO IS CONTINUALLY READING THE NEWSPAPER IN LOS ANGELES. WHAT WE WILL SEE IN GETTYSBURG IS NOT A MONUMENT NOR A FAMOUS PRESIDENT ON A PEDESTAL, BUT RATHER A MAN WHO IS HUMAN, WHO IS ONE OF THE PEOPLE.

BY CREATING A PIECE WHICH IS HISTORICALLY ACCURATE AS WELL AS EMOTIONALLY PROVOCATIVE, THE ARTIST HAS STAYED TRUE TO HIS DESIRE TO, "...BRIDGE THE TIME GAP BETWEEN LINCOLN'S DAY AND THE PRESENT, ALLOWING VISITORS TO ENVISION A LIVING LINCOLN, ONE WHOSE PASSIONS AND IDEALS ARE STILL VERY MUCH A PART OF OUR AMERICAN POLITICAL AND SOCIAL CONTEXT." ON A CROWDED DAY IN GETTYSBURG, IT WILL SEEM LIKE LINCOLN AND HIS FRIEND ARE MERELY VISITORS IN TOWN, SOAKING UP THE HISTORY OF THE PLACE. LINCOLN'S "RETURN VISIT" SHOULD HELP TO REKINDLE HIS VALUES IN OUR TIMES; TO BRING HIS MESSAGE OF DIGNITY FOR ALL MEN AND WOMEN BACK INTO OUR HEARTS AND MINDS.

J. SEWARD JOHNSON, JR.

Lifesize Bronze Sculpture

α ARCHITECTURAL DIGEST

z July 1994



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Lonnie Schlein/The New York Times

Would-Be Rider, Rooted to the Spot

"Taxi," at 46th Street and Park Avenue, a sculpture by J. Seward Johnson, commissioned by Chemical Bank in 1983, assumes a classic urban pose. There's no truth to the rumor the frustrated cab hailer froze to the spot.

J. SEWARD JOHNSON, JR.

Lifesize Bronze Sculpture



"Elemental"

Bronze, Lifesize

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longed encounter between these two men.

"We sat up opposite each other on the plane one night," Kerry told me. "John was sitting there in his own flight jacket"—the Navy-issue jacket from his days in flight school, with "Lt. McCain" on the patch. The fit was by then a little snug.

"We started talking about the war, and Vietnam, prison—what had happened to him, and all that. . . . Nothing had brought us together before, and we just talked. We talked about what I had done." Kerry was referring to the episode that McCain had denounced in the 1984 campaign. "But by now it wasn't a big hurdle," he went on. "To his credit, he didn't make it one. He made it clear that he had moved beyond all that. . . . The war was a tough period for a lot of people, for a lot of reasons. Both of us decided to put all that kind of stuff behind us, and work together at something."

Events gave them their common task. Within months of that conversation on the C-135, the old controversy over American soldiers abandoned in Vietnam was reawakened when newspaper front pages and then the cover of *Newsweek* displayed a photograph purportedly showing three American P.O.W.s still in captivity. Lurking below this issue, as always, was the war that had not yet ended. "I set out literally to bring that ending about," Kerry told me. "I knew as a matter of policy that it should take place, and I think John felt the same way." McCain lent Kerry his unimpeachable integrity on the question of the war that each wanted to end. Kerry drove the process, but only McCain could have enabled him to drive it home.

As a prisoner in Hoa Lo, lying on that cot in the dank cell with the "teeny" window, John McCain had put himself to sleep at night by memorizing the names of his fellow-P.O.W.s. "You start with the 'A's,'" he told me, and he went on to describe how, through the tap code, he learned of the arrival of new prisoners. "And you fill them in to where they are in the alphabet. . . . I would just associate the names: Brudno with 'brute'; Baker, and I'd think of a loaf of bread. I would remember the number of names under each letter." Night after night for years, McCain maintained a mental file of the names of perhaps a hundred and seventy captives. This and other acts of P.O.W. memorization were the beginning of The List,

J. SEWARD JOHNSON, JR.



"ELEMENTAL"

BRONZE, LIFE-SIZE

"Elemental" is one of five Johnson sculptures currently on view at the New Jersey Center for Visual Arts in Summit, N.J.

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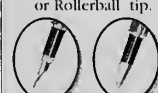
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Photo by Nick T. Nicholas

"Crack the Whip," this light-hearted sculpture near the Lincoln National Corporation offices, represents the playfulness of children everywhere.

JOHNSON, C. SEWARD, JR.

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